

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment supplements PCT patent application no. PCT/AU2002/001048, which is being submitted herewith for national stage filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 371.

The claims of the PCT application have been amended herein prior to calculation of the filing fee, in order to remove multiple claim dependencies, to clarify the wording of several claims, and to conform the claims with U.S. patent practice. Such conformance includes cancellation of PCT claim 12, which was in "omnibus" format not acceptable in U.S. practice. The newly added claims 13-21 are derived directly from the original claims 3-11 and are inserted to cover -- in non-multiple-dependency format -- the subject matter previously covered in the PCT application by multiply-dependent claims.

None of the amendments involves the submission of new matter nor changes the scope or nature of the invention.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein meet all U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements for claim format and are therefore appropriate for examination, which examination is requested.

Should there be any questions regarding this amendment or of the application generally, a telephone call (collect) to the undersigned attorney for Applicants at (619) 230-7454 is cordially invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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